

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SR-02 H-02 IGA-01 IO-10

EB-07 PRS-01 SSO-00 ABF-01 PM-03 INR-07 SS-15 SP-02

NSC-05 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /073 W  
----- 089343

O 270330Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9525

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3534

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY,  
U.S. SENATE.

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SREF, CB

SUBJ: RESPONSE TO SENATOR KENNEDY CABLE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3306

QUOTE. DEAR SENATOR KENNEDY, I WISH TO THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR WARM CABLE WHICH ARRIVED ON FEBRUARY 22. MORE PARTICULARLY  
I AM HEARTENED, AS ALWAYS, BY YOUR DEEP CONCERN FOR THE HUMANITARIAN  
PROBLEMS OF CAMBODIA. I AM HAPPY THAT FATHER CHARLEBOIS HAD THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF YOU ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO CAMBODIA AND I  
LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO PHNOM PENH LATER  
THIS WEEK.

QUOTE. BEFORE RESPONDING TO YOUR SPECIFIC INQUIRIES, LET ME  
COMMEND THE DEDICATED WORK OF THE CRS STAFF. AS YOU MAY KNOW,  
CRS WAS THE FIRST OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO UNDERTAKE A  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HERE IN CAMBODIA. THE ORGANIZA-  
TION, UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP FIRST OF MISS AGNES O'CASEY  
AND THEN OF FATHER PHILIP MCNAMARA AND NOW OF FATHER ROBERT GEHRING,  
HAS DONE A MAGNIFICENT JOB OF RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE  
REFUGEES, OFTEN AT RISK TO THEIR LIVES. JUST MONDAY OF THIS WEEK, IT  
WAS NECESSARY TO EVACUATE THE CRS TEAM FROM THE MEKONG RIVER  
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TOWN OF NEAK LOEUNG WHEN THE PHYSICAL SAFETY OF THAT GROUP

WAS IN DANGER. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH CRS, CARE, WORLD VISION AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, ALL OF WHOM WE HAVE ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED IN THEIR EFFORTS HERE.

QUOTE. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR SPECIFIC CONCERNS, RICE DISTRIBUTED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO REFUGEES COMES INTO THE COUNTRY BY EITHER AIRLIFT OR SURFACE. THE RICE IS PROVIDED TO THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES UPON THEIR REQUEST, SINCE THEY ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO PROVIDE ESTIMATES OF REQUIREMENTS NEEDED BY THE REFUGEE POPULATION. THESE REQUESTS ARE THEN SCREENED BY THE MINISTRY OF REFUGEES SO THAT DUPLICATION BY VOLAGS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS AVOIDED AND ALSO TO ENSURE THAT THE QUANTITIES DISTRIBUTED PER PERSON ARE UNIFORM AND EQUITABLE. THE GKR NATIONAL RICE COMMITTEE MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT FOOD REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. WE HAVE REQUESTED A PL 480 TITLE II PROGRAM TO PROVIDE RICE AT NO COST TO REFUGEES. THIS PROGRAM HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED. SHOULD THIS APPROVAL BE FORTHCOMING, IT WOULD PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE TO THE WAR VICTIMS AT NO COST TO THE GKR. IN ANY EVENT I AM SURE YOU WILL APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNIST FORCES ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO INTERRUPT THE FLOW OF FOOD TO THE ENTIRE POPULATION.

QUOTE. AS FATHER CHARLEBOIS MAY HAVE TOLD YOU, WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED AN EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW OF VOLUNTARY AGENCY BUDGET PROPOSALS. GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE GROWING REFUGEE PROBLEM AND THE LIMITED FUNDS WE HAVE AT OUR DISPOSAL, WE HAVE ELIMINATED ALL BUT THE MOST URGENT NEEDS FROM THE PROPOSALS. HAVING ARRIVED AT THIS ESSENTIAL MINIMUM, WE ARE NOW SEEKING TO ASSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL CURRENCY WHEN NEEDED AND TO THIS END HAVE MADE SEVERAL ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS TO AID/W. BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWER AND WITHIN OUR FUNDING LIMITS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRIORITY NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES.

QUOTE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RESETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT FUND (RDF), A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATION, WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE EMBASSY LAST YEAR. ITS PURPOSE WAS TO RESETTLE THE REFUGEES AND TO ASSIST THEM ONCE AGAIN TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE. ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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OBJECTIVES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, WHOSE AIMS ARE PRIMARILY TO RESPOND TO THE EMERGENCY NEEDS OF REFUGEES. UNFORTUNATELY. OWING TO THE DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE WHICH BEGAN EARLY THIS YEAR THE SCOPE OF RDF ACTIVITIES HAS PERFORCE BEEN SEVERELY REDUCED. ACCORDINGLY, FUNDING FOR THE BALANCE OF THIS FISCAL YEAR HAS BEEN REDUCED BY TWO THIRDS. THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDS STILL ALLOCATED TO RDF ARE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF BADLY NEEDED FOOD PRODUCTION PROJECTS

WHICH WERE JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY RDF AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THESE CROPS ARE ALREADY IN THE GROUND AND WOULD BE LOST IF FUNDS WERE NOT PROVIDED FOR THIS WORK. HOWEVER, MOST MIDDLE AND LONG RANGE ASSISTANCE WILL HAVE TO BE SUSPENDED DUE TO THE HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN VILLAGES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

QUOTE. FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR THE USAID HAS PROGRAMMED A TOTAL

OF 33.4 MILLION DOLLARS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. OF THIS AMOUNT, 10 MILLION DOLLARS IS PROVIDED FOR COMMODITIES AND SERVICES PROCURED OFFSHORE AND FOR DOLLAR GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THE BALANCE OF 23.4 MILLION DOLLARS REPRESENTS EQUIVALENT OF 31.0 BILLION RIELS IN LOCAL CURRENCY WHICH IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PURPOSES. 11.47 BILLION RIELS OF THIS TOTAL OR MORE THAN A THIRD IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO CRS.

QUOTE. AS YOU KNOW, A NUMBER OF YOUR COLLEAGUES ARE ENROUTE TO VIETNAM AND HOPEFULLY CAMBODIA THE LATTER PART OF THIS WEEK TO OBSERVE THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. I REGRET THAT YOU WERE UNABLE TO JOIN THIS GROUP BUT I DO HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF A VISIT FROM YOU IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. WARM REGARDS. JOHN GUNTHER DEAN, U.S. AMBASSADOR. UNQUOTE.  
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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## Message Attributes

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